

June 30, 2023

FY 2024 Budget Signing-Governor Agrees to \$10/PPD SNF Medicaid Increase

Just a short time ago the Governor signed the state's FY24 budget giving final approval to many items and vetoing nearly \$400 million from approximately 150 different lines in the budget. Since the action taken by the Governor happened just minutes ago, we have not had enough time to analyze all the vetoes; however, we have good news to report, the Governor has approved the \$10/PPD increase to our SNF Medicaid rate!

We will have more details in the coming days and weeks; however, here is all we know at this time. Contained in the budget bills is a \$10/PPD increase plus a small increase to the value-based payment incentive to the SNF Medicaid Rate. MO HealthNet was able to timely post the required public notice today, June 30, therefore, the increase will be effective on July 1, 2023. However, please keep in mind, as with all increases or changes to our Medicaid rate, this increase must still be approved by CMS before the state can begin to pay the \$10 increase. We will keep you updated as that progresses.

Please understand, we realize that this increase doesn't cover the significant underfunding you continue to experience due to the significant increases in labor and other costs that have plagued our facilities since COVID. However, it is our hope as you work to increase your CMI's and we work toward another rebasing, that this increase will offer you some relief. We are currently working with MO HealthNet and requesting they, along with the Governor, consider recommending another rebase next legislative session. If the administration is in agreement, then this rebasing would capture post-COVID and other increased costs our facilities have incurred since 2019 which is the year the last rebase was based on. We know the cost of the next rebase will come with a significant price tag to the state, so we have tough work ahead of us. We are in the early stages of these conversations and will report as the conversations continue in the months ahead.

Update on January 1, 2023, CMI/VBP Rate Adjustments

The state finally received the approval from CMS for the Data Share Agreement late this week. As you will recall, this document is necessary in order for MO HealthNet to get the updated resident listing information from DHSS which is necessary to finalize the January 1, 2023 rates. We are waiting to hear what the timeline is for the release of the January 1, 2023 final rate letters. As soon as we know, we will share that information with the membership. The good news is that this month's long roadblock created by CMS's inaction is finally out of the way and the state can move forward. We anticipate the state will move forward quickly, but don't want to guess on a timeframe but will let you know as soon as we know.

MHCA Silver and Bronze Quality Award Winners

Recently, AHCA/NCAL announced the Bronze and Silver Quality Award winners, and we are thrilled to celebrate our members' achievements!

Butterfield Residential Care Center and Citizens Memorial Healthcare Facility have been awarded the *2023 Silver – Achievement in Quality Award*.

Brooke Haven Healthcare, Community Springs Healthcare Facility, Lake Stockton Healthcare Facility, NHC Healthcare Maryland Heights, NHC Healthcare Desloge, NHC Healthcare Kennett, and The Villages of Jackson Creek have received the *2023 Bronze – Commitment to Quality Award*.

[**\(READ MORE\)**](#)

National Quality Award 2024 Program Dates

The National Quality Award Program is a rigorous three-level process that evaluates an organization's capabilities against nationally recognized standards for excellence. The program provides a pathway to improved outcomes in areas including care, workforce, leadership, and operations. Long term care providers know that by focusing on quality care they can change the lives of others. AHCA/NCAL encourages all members to consider joining or continuing your quality care journey through the National Quality Award program in 2024.

Why Apply for a National Quality Award?

Participating in this prestigious program allows facilities to assess and enhance their overall quality of care, operations, and outcomes. By engaging in a comprehensive evaluation process, facilities gain valuable insights into their strengths and areas for improvement, ultimately leading to better resident experiences and improved healthcare delivery.

[**\(READ MORE\)**](#)

CMS Posts Nursing Home Ownership and Performance Data on Care Compare

As part of the [White House initiative](#) to increase transparency of corporate ownership and operation of nursing homes, CMS released [QSO-23-18-NH](#), announcing the addition of ownership information to [Nursing Home Care Compare](#). CMS identified groups of Medicare-certified nursing homes linked together by common owners and operators referred to as “[affiliated entities](#).” Ownership data comes from:

- The Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System (PECOS);
- The electronic Medicare enrollment system; and
- National data repository for individual and organization providers who have enrolled or are enrolling in Medicare.

Additionally, CMS is publishing the [Nursing Home Affiliated Entity Performance Measures dataset](#) on data.cms.com. The data will combine inspection, staffing, quality, and other performance metrics across these affiliated entities.

Both data sets were published **as of June 28, 2023**. **Providers who have questions or updates to their nursing home affiliated entity assignment should contact NH_Affiliation_Inquiries@cms.hhs.gov.**

Medicaid Spend-Down Limit Changes

Effective July 1, 2023, the Medicaid Resource (Spend-Down) Limit increased to \$5,726.00. Please click [here](#) for more information.

IMPORTANT: For Medicaid/Medicare certified facilities, F569 states the facility must notify each resident/legal guardian that receives Medicaid benefits when the amount in the resident’s account reaches \$200 less than the SSI resource limit. This means certified facilities should notify the resident/legal guardian when the resident’s personal funds are \$5,526.00 or higher.

If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Gilmore, Lead Auditor, at 573-508-4150.

2023 Provider Feedback Survey

The Section for Long-Term Care Regulation is again seeking input from providers. They are asking for your help in identifying areas in their Section where excellent customer service is provided and areas where they need to focus on improving their customer service experience. Please take a couple minutes to complete their [2023 Provider Feedback Survey](#) by **July 5, 2023**.

Focus MDS Update of the Week

Since their release on April 3, 2023, [MDS 3.0 version v1.8.11v2 final item sets](#) and [draft RAI guidance](#) were updated and substantial changes were made to several sections. AHCA has been focusing on a different section each week to highlight changes that members need to know.

Changes to Section J include:

- Revision of the Pain Assessment Interview by expanding questions to reflect:
 - Pain effect on sleep;
 - Pain interference with therapy activities; and
 - Pain interference with day-to-day activities.

AHCA has created an [MDS Section J](#) resource document to help providers breakdown the changes. The information in the resource document outlines key changes to MDS Section J, Coding Instructions/RAI Guidelines for each item, and Actions to Consider for implementation across your facility.

(READ MORE)

New GAO Report on Care Compare

A [new GAO report](#) entitled *Nursing Homes: CMS Offers Useful Information on Website and Is Considering Additional Steps to Assess Underlying Data* has been released. As you know, CMS provides information on the quality of nursing homes as part of its Care Compare tool. CMS has worked to ensure that nursing home information on Care Compare is useful to consumers and lets them compare data among nursing homes, such as how many nurses a facility has on staff.

However, the GAO report found that Care Compare could be improved because some of the information is not always updated regularly. In fact, the report found some information that was more than 2 years old. The GAO report provides recommendations to help CMS improve the overall usefulness of the website.

AHCA Adds Several New Resources to AHCANCALED and Survey Preparedness Page

AHCA recently added several new resources to [ahcancaLED](#) and AHCA's [Survey Preparedness page](#). Each of the newly added resources were developed to assist members in areas that have either been identified as focus areas by CMS or they have been identified as areas that deficiencies are being given more frequently throughout the nation. A description to each of the resources is listed below

(READ MORE)

Missouri Nursing Facility Strike Team and Infrastructure Reimbursement Opportunity

On March 1, 2023, DHSS released information about the Missouri Nursing Facility Strike Team and Infrastructure Award, a reimbursement opportunity available to Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) and Long Term Care and Other Nursing Facilities (LTC).

Beginning March 1, facility owners and operators have been able to apply for reimbursement for expenses incurred between July 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023,

directly related to preparing, preventing, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The intention of this funding is to provide supplemental support to Missouri's skilled nursing, other long-term care and other nursing facilities during their response to SARS-CoV-2 infections, and also to build and maintain the infection prevention infrastructure necessary to support resident, visitor, and facility healthcare personnel safety. If you operated a SNF or LTC licensed with DHSS between July 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023, then you are eligible for reimbursement for allowable expenses.

([READ MORE](#))

2023 SLCR Annual Provider Meeting Topics - Dates & Locations

September 6, 2023: Region 7

Location: Crowne Plaza St. Louis Airport, Bridgeton

September 7, 2023: Region 2

Location: Drury Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, Cape Girardeau

September 13, 2023: Region 1

Location: Oasis Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield

September 14, 2023: Region 6

Location: Special Olympics Missouri, Jefferson City

September 27, 2023: Region 5

Location: Moberly Municipal Auditorium, Moberly

October 4, 2023: Region 4

Location: Stoney Creek Hotel, St. Joseph

October 5, 2023: Region 3

Location: Adams Pointe Conference Center, Blue Springs

Health Education Unit Updates

The DHSS Health Education Unit is conducting Weekly Instructor Info Webinars/Q&A Meetups. These sessions will be held the same day and time each week - **every Tuesday at 2:00 pm**. Click this [link](#) to join these weekly meetings. If you have questions, call the Health Education Unit at 573-526-5686.

CNA Testing Events

All Regional dates are viewable on the online calendar at <https://mo.tmutest.com/calendar>. To help with scheduling your testing event, contact Headmaster a few days after the CNA course starts. **IMPORTANT** – these are not the only test sites available. If you need a different testing location, please call Headmaster D&S (1-800-393-8664) and ask for the Missouri Team.

This message contains both confidential and proprietary information intended only for members of Missouri Health Care Association. This information should not be shared with anyone outside your organization. Dissemination, distribution to or copying the contents of this email for anyone outside your organization is strictly prohibited. MHCA reserves the right to restrict access to those violating this policy.



Missouri Health Care Association
236 Metro Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65109
(P) 573-893-2060 (F) 573-893-5248
mhca@mohealthcare.com
www.mohealthcare.com